The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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A cunning man overreaches no one half as much as himself.
—Beecher.

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LOW-WAGE THEORY EXPLODED; WORKERS' LONG FIGHT UPHELD

Cleveland, Sept. 8.—"The low-wage theory has been exploded," said William Green, A. F. of L. president, in an address that featured a large Labor Day celebration in this city under the auspices of the local Federation of Labor.

"If the low-wage theory were accepted in this age of production, demoralization would result," said the unionist.

"The economic problem, as presented by labor, is to increase consuming power and increase markets to meet increase in production. Obviously, this can not be accomplished without increasing the consuming power of the people through high wage levels."

The trade union executive declared that wages must keep pace with increased production and must correspond with the requirements of the American standard of living.

"We have passed the point where any general reduction in wages can take place without inflicting great injury upon all classes of people.

"The five-day week is no longer an experiment," said President Green. "This reduction of working hours is one of the chief objectives of labor, and is made possible through improved machinery, the development of skill and science and the increasing use of electrical power. Hundreds of thousands of working people have secured the five-day week. This has been the significant accomplishment of labor during the past year.

"The practicability of the five-day week has been proven. It has brought extended opportunities to the workers for rest, recreation and moral and spiritual development. As a result they have become more efficient, and community and civic life has been elevated.

"There is no way by which we can measure the social and economic value of the five-day week to industry, to the masses of the people and to the nation.

"The American Federation of Labor will continue to concentrate its efforts in behalf of this great modern industrial reform."

"REDS" MIX MEDICINE; HAVE ALL KIND OF DOPE

Washington, Sept. 8.—Australian labor papers received at A. F. of L. headquarters show that Communists on the other side of the world are using anti-union tactics so familiar in America.

Every agreement between unions and employers is sneeringly referred to as "class collaboration." In some instances, however, the "reds" are bolder in Australia, and call on workers to discard "all illusions regarding the possibilities of constitutionalism in the workers' struggles against the employers and in the so-called Labor governments."

In America the "reds" urge trade unionists to form a "labor" party, while in Australia they oppose the established labor party.

These contrary policies are logical for Communists. To them, consistency, morality and truthfulness are "bushwah" dope that drugs workers and delays the revolution.

In New York City the "reds" have organized fake cloak makers' unions that are used by employers to smash working conditions established by organized garment workers.

In other sections of the country the "reds" pose as mild-mannered "progressives"—until it is safe to show their teeth.

NO PATENT SOLUTION FOR LABOR PROBLEM

New York, Sept. 8.—A solution of the labor problem was scouted by Charles Stelzle, former superintendent of the Department of Church and Labor of the National Presbyterian Church, in a radio address in this city. "The labor question will never be settled until the last day's work is done," said Mr. Stelzle. "It does not matter what plan may be accepted by the present generation, we may be sure that it will not be satisfactory to those who will follow us. The securing of industrial peace is not a question of working so many hours a day or getting so many dollars for a day's work. It is a question whether they are working under fair economic conditions. And as our prosperity grows, it is natural that its blessing should be increasingly extended to working men.

"This means, in substance, that every generation will have its labor problem. And when any political party or economic group presents a panacea for the labor question, it is time to adjourn the meeting."

Mr. Stelzle declared that social unrest in industry and throughout the world in general "is one of the most hopeful signs, because it is the legitimate outcome of the finest idealism the world has ever known. Every worth-while institution, if it is fulfilling its mission, is helping to develop dissatisfaction with present conditions."

The speaker pleaded for better understandings between men, even though they disagree. "It is better to understand a man than to silence him," he said.

NEW WAGE CONTRACT WON BY COAL MINERS

Chicago, Sept. 8.—Illinois coal operators and miners signed a four-year agreement, subject to ratification by a referendum vote of these workers.

The new contract provides for 91 cents for tonnage men, compared with the old Jacksonville scale of $1.08 a ton, and $6.10 a day for day workers, compared to the old $7.50 rate. The agreement, effective September 16, lasts until March 31, 1932. The agreement is expected to have a bearing on settlements in Indiana, Iowa and Pennsylvania.

MINERS WIN BACK PAY

Shamokin, Pa., Sept. 8.—The Alaska colliery must pay $50,000 back pay to 325 miners, who have proven to a referee that the company increased the size of their cars without increasing wages.

This short-weight system was common in the coal fields before miners were organized.

BRITISH OUT-OF-WORK FUND IS NOT CHARITY

Winnipeg, Canada, Sept. 8.—The British unemployment insurance is not a "dole," said Ramsey MacDonald, former British labor premier, in a speech in this city.

Mr. MacDonald explained that this insurance is maintained by contributions by employers, workers and the government.

"The state makes the scheme compulsory and incidentally it has the best bargain because it pays less than one-third of the insurance and is free from paying all of the poor law grants," said Mr. MacDonald.

"We do not use the term 'dole.' We leave the practice of loose language to our opponents. How would you like it if you were informed by some Tory Englishman that your wife, when you die, will live on the 'dole' instead of the insurance you have provided? I would call that an insult, yet that is how some people describe the unemployment insurance of Great Britain.

"If you are not looking for work, if you refuse to take a position you can do when sent by the employment service, your name is crossed off and you can not draw from the insurance fund. That is the magnificent bogey described as the 'dole.'"

RADIO TRUST EXPOSED BY CHICAGO UNIONIST

Chicago, Sept. 8.—"The general public knows little of what has been, and is, going on in the radio industry," says Maurice Lynch, financial secretary Chicago Federation of Labor.

Writing in the Union Leader, official journal for Chicago of the Amalgamated Street Car Men's Union, Mr. Lynch traces efforts of the radio trust to control independents. Included in the independents is station WCFL, owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor. This is the only broadcasting station in the world that is owned, controlled and operated by union labor.

To secure a monopoly, the radio trust pooled more than 1,000 patents. Every new patent was picked up.

"In order to continue doing business, independent manufacturers were forced to take out licenses from the combination," says Mr. Lynch. "The terms for the licenses were: "Seven and one-half per cent of the manufacturer's selling price had to be paid in royalties to the combination, and if this 7½ per cent did not amount to $100,000 per year, the manufacturer would have to pay that sum as a minimum. In addition he should use parts prescribed by the combination in the manufacture of sets and for a period of four and one-half years. The combination must have priority rights to purchase any improvements developed and for sale by the manufacturer.

"This combination is known as the radio trust, otherwise the R. C. A.—Radio Corporation of America. It is a combination of $3,000,000,000, and includes the Radio Corporation of America, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, General Electric Company, Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing Company, United Fruit Corporation and National Broadcasting Company."

TOWERMAN IN WRECK ONLY A TRAIN CLERK

New York, Sept. 8.—District Attorney Blanton asks the Interborough Rapid Transit Company to explain why it used a train clerk instead of a skilled towerman in the signal tower at the Times subway station last month when 16 passengers were killed and more than 100 were injured in a wreck.

"It seems to me it was an inefficient lack of attention to equipment which the company has to prevent accidents," said Mr. Blanton.

The Interborough has been in the public eye for several years because of its anti-union policy and its financial jugglery. The corporation operates the subways that were built by the city.

RAILROADS USING OIL

Washington, Sept. 8.—The increasing substitution of oil for coal by the nation's railroads is shown to be a factor in the depression of the latter industry.

The Department of Commerce reports that the railroads consumed 68,777,836 barrels of fuel oil last year, as compared with 68,392,390 barrels in 1926.

TO MEET EVERY FOUR YEARS

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Sept. 8.—The convention of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union adopted a resolution to hold conventions every four years, instead of two years.

SLOGANS IS ANCIENT TRAP FOR WORKERS

Every student of psychology—the operation of the human mind—knows how easily masses of the people are swayed by slogans, cat calls and war whoops.

In every age idealism and emotionalism have been exploited by self-seekers who would save the people. They never urge the people to save themselves.

In the French Revolution "liberty, equality and fraternity" was used by the rising trading class to sweep the serfs to their side in a struggle for a voice in government.

When the traders won they discarded the ladder they so successfully used.

The cries "let well enough alone," "stand pat" and "the full dinner pail" are more modern illustrations of how people are used as pawns when they refuse to think.

The "open" shop, the "American" plan and "employes' representation" are further proof—if this were necessary—that large numbers of people can be fooled by an alluring term.

When one of these phrases is discredited, a new one is coined, while men ignore the fact that the authors have fooled them again and again.

Every bitter experience of the workers can be traced to their failure to look behind the scenes; to dissect slogans; to do their own thinking.

The Socialists' cry "vote yourself a job" shook the trade union movement a quarter of a century ago. The I. W. W. and the One Big Union had the center of the stage until disillusion restored intellectual sanity.

Now the Communists ignore the realities of life and present their wind project in new stage dressing.

Back of all this lung work is a drill sergeant morality that is overlooked by sentimentalists and emotionalists who ignore history and facts—until they are compelled to.

This element is always attracted by a repainted Punch and Judy act.

These movements differ from trade unionism, which rests on the granite foundation of collective intelligence and capacity.

This slow, certain development does not appeal to the theatrically inclined who call organized workers reactionary because they do not clamor—and evaporate.

WHY LABOR "ADVISORS" WORRY

These are the days when trade unionists are pictured as "sturdy, intelligent, independent American workingmen" who can not be delivered en bloc by their "leaders" on election day.

In the absence of a political campaign the taffy peddlers picture these workers as part of a trade union tyranny that would place all labor on a dead level.

In both cases the intelligence of millions of citizens is questioned.

These workers, as usual, will ignore both libels. They will continue to form their political judgments after they have read the party platforms, reviewed the declarations of candidates and received official records from the A. F. of L.

It is this unbiased information, and the determination of workers to act accordingly, that worries libellers and taffy peddlers.

USURPERS CAN'T BE TRUSTED

Men ignore history and the human instinct for power if they attempt to check equity judges in the "excessive" use of the labor injunction.

It is the world's experience that men will not voluntarily surrender their power.

Machiavelli, Italian statesman of the fifteenth century, said:

"Let no one who begins an innovation in a state expect that he shall stop it at his pleasure, or regulate it according to his intention."

It is too much to expect an usurping judge to be moderate in the application of his usurpation. The failure of kings to pursue this policy forced the people to destroy autocracy.

The remedy for the injunction evil is to strip this power from equity courts. They should not be permitted to decide what is "excessive." If they are permitted, the labor injunction principle is accepted.

No tyrant ever acknowledged his tyranny.

Let the equity process be restored to its original process—that no injunction shall be issued in personal relations and that a plaintiff can not secure this writ when he has a remedy at law.

TALKING THRU RADIO CLASSED AS COMMERCE

Washington, Sept. 8.—Radio broadcasting constitutes interstate commerce, according to a ruling by the Federal Radio Commission.

The commission stated that whether broadcasting be interstate commerce or not, "it is clear that even the smallest broadcasting station does, or may, interfere with interstate commerce, and is, therefore, subject to regulation."

The contention that refusal to grant renewal of licenses constitutes a taking of property without due process of law, in contravention of the Constitution, was described by the commission as "not well founded." Pointing out that all broadcasters are licensed to use the ether, the statement said that if an applicant is deprived of anything by the decision of the commission "it is not of his tangible property, his transmitter or his studio, but of the privilege of using and operating this property either in interstate commerce or in such a way as may interfere with interstate commerce."

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS; WINTER OUTLOOK BAD

New York, Sept. 8.—Unemployment in New York State this summer has made little recovery from that of last winter and may prove worse than the slump year of 1921, according to statistical returns of the State Department of Labor.

Wages are not declining, according to these reports, but opportunities for work have lessened. Reports from missions and relief organizations do not sustain the "prosperity" cry. Jobs are few and far between and the outlook for winter is gloomier than it was at this time last year, according to these social services.

"The employment condition is serious, but people never wake up to the fact that it is bad until there is a panic. Actually it is no better than last winter when there was such an outcry," said Dr. E. B. Patton, director of the bureau of statistics of the State Department of Labor.

FARMERS ARE "TIPPED" TO PLANT LESS WHEAT

Washington, Sept. 8.—Winter wheat farmers are warned by the Department of Agriculture that if they plant too much wheat they will have another huge surplus on their hands next year.

An average acreage planted in winter wheat will produce 600,000,000 bushels. This is 40 per cent more than the farmers can dispose of in this country. The surplus is exported and must face the competition in the world's markets of large carry-over crops and large production in Canada, Argentina and Australia.

CORN BELT FARMERS URGED TO DROP PARTY

Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 8.—The Corn Belt Federation of Farm Organizations, representing more than 1,000,000 farmers, has made a non-partisan political declaration that sounds like organized labor.

These farmers are called upon "to support their friends and oppose their enemies, regardless of party."

President Coolidge's veto of the McNary-Haugen bill is referred to, as is the policy of both political conventions regarding farm relief.

After drawing this comparison, the farm belt committee added: "We again emphasize the obvious fact that farmers should support their friends and oppose their enemies, regardless of party."

EIGHT-HOUR AWARD UPHELD BY COURTS

San Francisco, Sept. 8.—Four railroads operating ferry lines have lost their fight in the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals to have an eight-hour arbitration award annulled.

The arbitrators made their award on October 31, 1927. The railroads attacked the decision, which was based on the railway labor act of 1926. Judge St. Sure of the Federal District Court upheld the arbitrators and the carriers appealed to the Court of Appeals, where they are again repulsed.

The arbitrators also raised wages $10 a month for ferry boat employes, but this was not involved in court proceedings. The workers' court victory marks the end of an eight years' struggle by the Ferryboatmen's Union to establish the eight-hour day and six-day week on ferry boats on San Francisco Bay and tributary waters.

Trade unionists are "complimenting" the railroad managers for their "sportsmanship" in accepting arbitration and then asking the courts to set aside the award.

CONVICT LABOR OPPOSED BY ARIZONA UNIONISTS

Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 8.—Officials of the State Federation of Labor object to the employment of convict labor on the State Industrial School for Girls.

In a letter to Governor Hunt the unionists point out that this state has never permitted convict labor to compete with free labor. Fear is expressed that the use of convicts in the present case will be used as a precedent.

CARPENTERS STRIKE

White Plains, N. Y., Sept. 8.—Twenty mills in this county are tied up by a strike of several hundred members of the Brotherhood of Carpenters. These "inside" workers are demanding a five-day week.

Coal Miners' Strike Not In Vain; Wage Cuts Can't Aid Operators

Indianapolis, Sept. 8.—"The coal operator may get wage reductions, but he does not get relief," said William B. Wilson, former Secretary of Labor and former secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, writing to John L. Lewis, president of that organization.

Mr. Wilson declared that President Lewis could do nothing else than favor amending the union's Jacksonville agreement policy.

"When a manufacturer," said Mr. Wilson, "finds that he is unable to compete, he first turns his attention to his greatest item of cost, his raw material, and seeks retrenchment there before attacking wage rates.

"In bituminous mining labor is 80 per cent of the cost of putting coal on the railroad cars. When an operator finds himself unable to meet competition he, also, turns his first attention to his greatest item of cost, which is labor, and seeks to reduce wages. If he succeeds, his neighbor does likewise and he is no better off than he was before.

"The continual pressure from the railroads and the public for cheaper fuel; the over-development of mining operations due to unfair freight rates and the fact that in many fields the coal measures are easily accessible, and the decline in the demand for coal growing out of various causes, create a condition that prompts the short-sighted operator to seek relief in wage reductions. He may get wage reductions but he does not get relief. There is no doubt in my mind that if it had not been for the fight you have put up, the rates in the mining industry would, long before this time, have been smashed to smithereens.

"So, I repeat, your philosophy is sound, but the history of the world has shown that the progress of a sound philosophy has frequently been retarded by coming in contact with superior physical force. You are facing that situation at the present time. The philosophy will triumph in the end, but in the meantime you will have to meet the physical conditions confronting you.

"We will all have to take up another hole in our belts, as we did in the old pick mining days, and go at it again with renewed vigor to restore the morale that has been shattered by the long, hard fight."

LABOR'S INTEREST IN INDUSTRY IS GREATER THAN OTHER GROUPS

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 8.—In an address to the State Federation of Labor convention United States Senator Wagner denied that wage workers have no interest in business and are not concerned with its prosperity.

"One bold statistical fact ought to dispel this notion," said Senator Wagner. "I have examined the pay rolls and dividend totals of six outstanding business organizations. The average stockholder was paid a dividend of $176, the average wage earner $1,759. In other words, the average wage earner secured from the corporation 10 times as much as the average stockholder. In the face of such figures, is it fair to say that only the stockholder has an interest in business and that the wage earner has none?

"My comparison is not yet complete. You should further consider that the wages constitute the workman's total income, whereas, the dividend is in most cases only a fraction of the stockholder's income. Then again compare how easy it is to sell the stock of one corporation and buy that of another, and how difficult it is to quit work in one plant and obtain it in another. If you take these elements into consideration you come to realize how real an interest the wage earners have in the plant in which they work."

NON-PARTISAN POLICY URGED BY GREEN IN CALL TO LABOR

Washington, Sept. 8.—In a call for non-partisan political action, William Green, president A. F. of L., urges the 35,000 local unions in this country to select committees that will cooperate with similar non-partisan committees of central bodies and State Federations of Labor.

The importance of registering and voting is emphasized by Mr. Green. He also calls attention to the importance of the congressional elections, and the need for opposition to defenders of the labor injunction.

"Undoubtedly the presidential campaign will be vigorously conducted and there is fear that it will overshadow the campaign for members of Congress and other legislative bodies," said the A. F. of L. executive. "The utmost care should be exercised in selecting members of Congress.

"The A. F. of L. will furnish all State federations of labor, city central bodies and local unions with the labor planks in the platforms of the national political parties; the references made by the candidates for President and Vice President in their acceptance speeches on labor issues contained in the two political platforms and the legislative records on measures of interest to labor of the candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives who have served in these bodies.

"Wide publicity should be given these records that the membership may know whether the candidates have proved loyal to the interests of labor and the people, or have been untrue to their trust.

"Every man and woman who has a vote is not protecting his or her interests if they neglect to go to the polls on November 6.

"We hope they will keep in mind these slogans:

"No loyal citizen of the United States will vote for a candidate who will not support legislation prohibiting the use of injunctions in labor disputes.

"No just-minded citizen will vote for a candidate for a State legislature who is not in favor of protecting the nation's children from industrial exploitation.

"These are outstanding issues before the people of our nation. Their acceptance or defeat means much to the future of our Republic."

LABOR ISSUE VITAL; AFFECTS ALL NATIONS

New York, Sept. 8.—"The labor problem is the major perplexity before every people," said Rev. Dr. George Stewart of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

"The labor problem is enmeshed in our whole economic order," said the clergyman. "It goes straight to the center of national life and business genius. It tests to the utmost the ethical and religious capacity of any people.

"With all our industrial ability we have over 2,000,000 unemployed. England is being weighed in the balance and it is still an open question whether she can find work for her 2,000,000 unemployed. China dare not demobilize her armies, for they represent a vast unemployed population. The labor problem is vital to every nation."

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM FIRST URGED BY LABOR

Pittsburg, Kan., Sept. 8.—"If the free public school system were the sole accomplishment of the American trade union movement, this would be sufficient justification for its existence," said John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L., in a Labor Day speech in this city.

The American Legion joined in the Labor Day observance with organized workers.

"When trade unions along the Atlantic seaboard began their campaign in 1825 to establish a free public school system," said Mr. Frey, "they were attacked by clergymen of all denominations, by an overwhelming majority of educators and by employers. With the cooperation of that great educator, Horace Mann, they continued their efforts until the free system, under state control, was established."

The speaker called attention to other remedial legislation that has been secured through the efforts of organized labor. These include child labor laws, compulsory school attendance, sanitary work conditions and compensation for injuries and deaths.

"While this record is an inspiration, we must face new conditions," said Mr. Frey. "Each year sees additional skilled workmen thrown out of employment because of improved machinery and more efficient methods of production. There is but one answer to the problem. Hours must be reduced and those who work must receive a wage sufficient to enable them to purchase what industry produces. The real wage of the American worker must increase."

DEATHS IN INDUSTRY COSTLY TO SOCIETY

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 8.—Injuries and deaths in industry in this state last year cost society the productive labor of more than 40,000 men and women for that period, according to estimates based on reports by the State Department of Labor.

More than 93,000 workers received injuries serious enough to disable them for a week or more. More than 17,000 workers suffered injuries which will handicap them partially in their future lives.

There were 1,129 death and total disability cases, 87 more than in 1927. Compensation was awarded for more than 1,163,000 weeks in permanent, partial and temporary cases. This does not include the first week of illness, in which no compensation is paid, except in cases that last 49 days.

If the customary allowance of 1,000 weeks is made for each death and permanent total case, the grant total of weeks equals more than 2,340,000. In vivid terms this means that society lost the productive labor of more than 40,000 men and women for one whole year.

MUSICIANS ENJOINED BY JUDGE WILKERSON

Chicago, Sept. 8.—Federal Judge Wilkerson has enjoined members of the American Federation of Musicians from striking, but the command has been ignored. The musicians are asking for a continuance of present work conditions, and the court decrees that they can not leave their employment to enforce this demand.

Judge Wilkerson signed the famous injunction against bituminous coal miners which was prepared by Attorney General Daugherty.

MINERS' OFFICIAL DEAD

Belleville, Ill., Sept. 8.—Edward L. Dobbins, member international executive board, United Mine Workers, died at his home here.

HOSTILE EMPLOYERS KNOW TRADE UNIONS

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 8.—Anti-union employers are not as ignorant of the trade union movement as they profess, said Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., in a Labor Day speech in this city.

"This employer knows far better than his employes the unlimited possibilities of trade unionism," said Mr. Morrison. "He knows that the trade unions are only limited by their capacity, which is enlarging day by day. He dare not reveal the reason for his opposition, so he claims he does not understand our movement.

"It is our experience that such an employer quickly understands when he is confronted by a 100 per cent organization. Then he no longer professes ignorance of a movement whose advances on the social, economic and political fields can not be equalled by any other institution."

The A. F. of L. official said the company "union" is an employer-controlled organization, and is merely a "concession to the spirit of an organization age."

The speaker developed the thought that the company "union" is identical in spirit to individual bargaining, and to the so-called "American" and "open" shop plans which the anti-union employer has been forced to abandon. His latest scheme, in principle and policy, permits him to retain control of employes.

"EFFICIENCY" CRAZE COUNTERFEITERS' AID

Washington, Sept. 8.—Organized plate printers, who make the nation's paper money, challenge treasury officials to disprove their charge that small bank notes, now being manufactured, will make counterfeiting easy.

The Treasury Department says the reason for small notes is "that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing can not meet the demands of the country for notes of the present size."

Answering this claim, plate printers point to their lay offs and furloughs for practically one-twelfth of the last fiscal year.

Behind this small note movement is the United States Bureau of Efficiency that is only interested in saving a few thousand dollars, while ignoring losses that can not be computed because of the ease with which the new money can be counterfeited, the printers say.

All scientific methods will be discarded in printing the new notes. The process will be the same as used by any commercial establishment in printing raffle tickets and hand bills. This will make it possible for the Bureau of Efficiency to show the next Congress an apparent money saving, but the counterfeiters will be in clover.

"To the photo engraver, the ease with which the new notes can be reproduced is apparent and to the process printer they are a joke," said Frank J. Coleman, editor of Plate Printer. The labor editor points to this situation as an illustration of how far "efficiency" experts will go.

ARIZONA INJURY LAW CONFOUNDS CHASERS

Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 8.—The Industrial Commission has repaid $75,000 of a $90,000 loan from the state to finance the Arizona workmen's compensation law. The commission expects to pay the balance next year.

When the legislature authorized this loan, three years ago, ambulance chasers and private insurance companies pleaded with taxpayers to protest against wasting $90,000.

"You are pouring this money in a rat hole," shrieked these patriots.

STEREOTYPERS ADVANCE

New Brunswick, N. J., Sept. 8.—Stereotypers employed on daily newspapers have raised wages and secured a three-year contract. Rates for apprentices are also increased.